

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 /079 W

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R 182120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5953

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU'S RETURN BOLSTERS CABINET

REF: OTTAWA 962

1. PRIMIN TRUDEAU MAY HAVE BROUGHT BACK LITTLE OF
SUBSTANCE FROM EUROPE (SEPTTEL) BUT HIS RETURN TO OTTAWA
MARCH 15 HAS EVIDENTLY BUCKED UP HIS CABINET. SIMPLY BY
BEING IN PARLIAMENT, KEEPING HIS COOL, AND REFUSING TO
BE DRAWN, HE HAS MOLLIFIED CRITICISM AND CHEERED HIS
COLLEAGES.

2. LABOR MIN MUNRO HAS RETURNED TO HIS MINISTRY AND TO
PARLIAMENT RESTED AND REFRESHED, STATING HE "OVERREACTED"
IN OFFERING HIS RESIGNATION. SOLICITOR GENERAL ALLMAND
AND FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL GOYER WERE QUIZZED FOR FOUR
HOURS BY JUSTICE COMMITTEE MARCH 17 CONCERNING POSSIBLE
GOC ROLE IN DREDGING CONTRACT SCANDALS, OR FAILURE ADE-
QUATELY TO INVESTIGATE THEM. THOUGH OPPOSITION MEMBERS
CLAIMED THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED, THERE NO INDICATION OF
IMPROPRIETY OR EVEN LASSITUDE ON PART OF GOC. IN
COMMONS, TRUDEAU REPLIED TO DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY
INTO DREDGING ISSUE SIMPLY BY SAYING THAT JUDICIAL AND
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS ADEQUATE TO TASK AND FUNCTIONING

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PROPERLY. UNLESS NEW REVELATIONS FORTHCOMING, IT

APPEARS POLITICAL DAMAGE OF DREDGING SCANDALS MAY BE
KEPT TO MINIMUM.

3. NEVERTHELESS, OTHER CONCERNS DISCUSSED REFTEL
CONTINUE. DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO PARLIAMENTARY INEPTNESS,
GOC HAS PASSED LITTLE IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THIS SESSION.
STRIKES CONTINUE TO TIE UP IMPORTANT AREAS OF ECONOMY,
AND GOC APPEARS POWERLESS TO OFFER ANYTHING BUT IN-
FLATIONARY SETTLEMENTS. PARLIAMENT WILL PROBABLY RECESS
MARCH 26 AND RESUME SESSION APRIL 7. TRUDEAU AND CABINET
FACE DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING PROBLEMS THIS SPRING.
PORTER

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